

Call to Order – 12:30 pm, October 30, 2014 | MBC 2294

## 1. Roll Call of Attendance

### Committee Composition

Vice President External Relations (*chair*)..... Darwin Binesh  
President (*ex officio*) ..... Chardaye Bueckert  
Vice President Student Life..... Kayode Fatoba (*late*)  
Board of Directors Representative .....  
Board of Directors Representative ..... Brady Wallace  
Councilor ..... Kathleen Yang  
Councilor .....  
Councilor ..... Maren Thompson  
Board of Governors Representative.....  
Out On Campus Representative .....  
Women’s Centre Representative..... Anjali Biju  
Senate Representative ..... Shirin Escarcha  
Student At-Large..... Muhsin Suleiman  
Student At-Large..... Arjan Mundy

### Society Staff

Campaigns, Research, and Policy Coordinator ..... Pierre Cassidy  
Minute Taker ..... Dion Chong

### Regrets

Councilor ..... Michael Fujiwara (*academic*)  
Vice President University Relations ..... Moe Kopahi (*in class*)

## 2. Adoption of the Agenda

### MOTION ADV 2014-10-30:01

Biju

*Be it resolved to adopt the agenda as amended*

*Tuition increase and Louis Riel items added*

### CARRIED AS AMENDED

## 3. Ratification of Regrets

### MOTION ADV 2014-10-30:02

Wallace

*Be it resolved to ratify regrets from:*

Councilor ..... Michael Fujiwara (*academic*)

Vice President University Relations ..... Moe Kopahi (*in class*)

### CARRIED

The committee was reminded that they could request follow-up on the regrets.

## 4. Matters Arising from the Minutes

### MOTION ADV 2014-10-30:03

Wallace

*Be it resolved to approve the minutes of 2014-10-16 and 2014-10-23*

**CARRIED**

Abstention Noted: Escarcha

*Fatoba entered at 12:34pm*

**5. Committee Member Updates**

The Vice President External Relations would distribute a document with a breakdown of approved expenditures for the year.

**Student At-Large Suleiman**

Met a master's student in Sociology interested in building up policy. SFU already had an ethical purchasing policy, but with little implementation. Also met with Campaigns, Research, and Policy Coordinator around wording of a potential policy

**President**

Open Textbook Working Group met on Wednesday. Open Textbook Panel with SFU Open Square – had 40 people in attendance with good mix of participants. Notable findings included the following:

- University of Wisconsin has been using open textbook publishing as a requirement for tenure.
- UConn hired a fulltime student through a directed levy to operate a Liberate 250 campaign to advocate for open textbooks, saving over \$250,000 for students. S

FU Faculty Association was no longer interested in receiving a presentation, and the president would follow up on the matter. The CRP Coordinator was looking into potential for collaboration on the matter with other student unions. Longevity of the campaign and steps moving forward would be discussed in the near future.

**Women's Centre Representative**

250 Hot Pink Paper pamphlets were received by the Women's Centre which would be distributed.

**Vice President Student Life**

Conversation with UBC on joint initiatives for the I Am A Student Campaign.

International clubs and former president of ISG have edited a document to provide context on continued discussions.

**Councilor Yang**

SFU Votes work has continued. Dates have been set for November 3 on Vancouver, November 7 Surrey Mezzanine, and November 12 Saywell Atrium.

Candidates being contacted, banners being made, catering ordered. Doodle would be sent to committee for Advocacy Committee participation.

Potential offline discussion on Hot Pink Paper distribution at SFU or donation back to home organization.

**Senate Representative**

Student Senators have formulated a student caucus and played a role in liaising between Advocacy Committee and members of the caucus.

### Arts and Social Sciences Representative

Volunteers were being sought for the Greek Life Townhall.

### Vice President External Relations

Candidates have been contacting Vice President External Relations in regards to the SFU Votes campaign.

Compiling organizational charts to provide information on governmental structures, relationships, and contacts.

## 6. New Business

### a. SFU Says No to the Pipeline

#### **MOTION ADV 2014-10-30:04**

~~Bueckert/Amended Wallace/Yang~~

~~Be it resolved that the Advocacy Committee recommend to BOD to endorse and participate in the "SFU Says No to the Pipelines" event on November 13th, 2014.~~

~~Be it further resolved to recommend to BOD to take a formal opposition stance on the Kinder Morgan Pipeline.~~

SFPRIG contacted the President and asked if the SFSS would participate in an event on November 13 relating to the Transmountain Pipeline. SFSS has not yet taken a formal stance on the pipeline; SFPIRG has taken a strong stance against the pipeline. As of yesterday, SFSS received approval to become interveners in the Kinder Morgan Pipeline process.

*Campaigns, Research, and Policy Coordinator entered 12:45pm*

Given the lack of a formal stance, the committee had the option to participate, although participation may allude to a stance.

A member indicated support for ADV participation, and wished to ensure that it would be possible for the SFSS's various clubs and student unions to participate in the event.

Advocacy Committee was requested to consider whether or not the committee was willing to take a stance on the matter and escalating a recommendation to Board on the matter of the Kinder Morgan pipeline.

It was clarified that the motion would be in opposition to the particular pipeline project only.

#### **MOTION SEVERED**

Should the formal opposition stance be approved at Board, the committee would have the authority to take part in the event.

#### **MOTION WITHDRAWN**

#### **MOTION ADV 2014-10-30:05**

Wallace

*Be it resolved to recommend to BOD to take a formal opposition stance on the Kinder Morgan Pipeline.*

If the Board was opposed taking a stance, the committee would not likely be able to participate in the event. This would not affect the SFSS's participation on intervener status.

Council discussed the Northern Gateway pipeline project. ADV recommended application for intervener status as opposed to taking a formal stance.

The current pipeline plans were to transect Burnaby Mountain and would likely cause disruptions

## **CARRIED**

### **7. Discussion**

#### **a. Angel Tree Project**

The University of the Fraser Valley conducted a yearly project where a Christmas tree was set up with ornaments indicating gifts that students could buy on behalf of a financially needy parent student. In the past year, HSUSU attempted to run a similar project, but due to limited information on student parents, the project worked with community partners. The Women's Centre, GSS, and HSUSU were collaborating this year to create holiday hampers for financially needy student families, as well as collecting blankets and children's books for a community partner serving high risk expecting mothers. The project would run from November to December. The committee was reminded that there were a large number of undergraduate student parents who could benefit from such a project

Health Sciences Representative may need some funding to make the ornaments for the tree. There were also some potential for the committee sponsor gifts should there be a gap between what is sponsored and what is needed. There was a hope to expand the programme to four trees across the Burnaby Campus.

The committee would continue with an understanding that the Health Sciences Representative would return to the committee with documentation should contingency funding be needed.

#### **b. Media Monitoring Service for CRP Office**

The CRP Office was in charge of providing support for organizational advocacy initiatives, which required awareness of the external context of any campaign. Organizations typically have access to media monitoring services which collate media stories attached to keywords. The Canadian Press provides a discount for educational institutions and nonprofit organizations. This would be mostly in service of the Committee, and would allow the CRPC to provide information on campaigns, as well as allowing the ADV to make requests on the types of information being received by the Society.

The cost was based on a monthly fee, which changes based upon the number of search parameters. The cost would likely be around \$5000 per year. The committee found that such a service would be an asset to the organization and allow for greater campaign efficacy.

CRP could collate interested areas each day from groups including student unions, and would then distribute the information to the groups that have requested such information. A procedure would have to be established, but the organization would receive the information and would allow all levels of the organization to remain well-informed of issues relevant to

The CRPC would return with information sourced from the Executive Director and the Vice President Finance.

CRP would require the drafting of a set of keywords prior to requesting an invoice. In the interim, the CRPC would collate search parameters from the members of Advocacy Committee, request an invoice, and engage with the President; ED; Vice President Finance. This would be provided to the committee for discussion on how it would like to proceed.

### **c. International Student Tuition Increase**

One-on-one budget consultations between the SFSS and the University was recently conducted. The letter recommended by ADV and Board was presented to the university, which included the four requests as approved by both bodies. The tone of the conversation was positive, although there were no commitments on any of the asks. There was commitment to discuss the matter at the University Vice Presidents table.

- Grandfather Clause – SFU would consider the clause and generate financial models.
- Degree Completion Fund – financial need for international students has not been met by existing financial aid, and most of the international bursaries were going to international graduate students.
  - The university expressed concern around the ability to substantiate international student need
- Fee freezes – were not deemed possible. The UBC system of a 3% increase would be considered.
- Communication Protocol – BOG has a communication protocol for consultation for fee increases. The SFSS has indicated that there were opportunities for improvement, particularly as there was no online communication requirement. The UBC equivalent was

In consideration of provincial funding cuts, the committee would have to consider proposing options and solutions, such as differential fees for international graduate students, longer periods of fee increases, sources of funding for the degree completion fund etc.

International community has recognized that the student body has to mobilize to provide quality international student education. UBC began the I Am A Student campaign to discuss both the tuition and housing costs, which was not equitable. The AMS mobilized the student population to advocate for an equitable environment.

The international tuition fee townhall attracted members representing clubs covering significant sections of the membership. These clubs were planning to expand the I Am A Student campaign to the SFU campus. Stories have been requested from international students to be shared with the community, including members of the administration. The goal was to create dialogue and provide the university with instruments and resources in their discussions with the provincial government. This would allow SFU to join discussions already underway with UBC to express the impact of such issues.

November 21<sup>st</sup> event at Halpern Centre – request for \$1200 to discuss the fee increases. The event could potentially be held at a lecture hall, should the event gain momentum. The university administration would be invited.

Story in The Peak – stories were written, but there was a desire for the experiences to be shared with the community.

**MOTION ADV 2014-10-30:06**

Bueckert

Be it resolved to extend the meeting by 5 minutes.

**CARRIED**

Abstention noted from Suleiman

**MOTION ADV 2014-10-30:07**

Fateba

~~Be it resolved to allocate \$1250 to the international student town hall on November 21<sup>st</sup>, 2014 from the Advocacy line item as per the received budget.~~

A member felt at desire to avoid continuing to protest until the University has replied to information requests.

Confusion was expressed around the difference between projected costs and motion submitted.

**MOTION WITHDRAWN**

**d. Louis Riel Residence Issues**

**MOTION ADV 2014-10-30:08**

Bueckert

Be it resolved to extend the meeting by 5 minutes.

**CARRIED**

There was concern that members were living in housing with mold. A number of students have brought up concerns around the state of these residences. A survey was circulated to residents of the building which addressed health issues as opposed to living conditions. A number of suites have been condemned as a result of the persistent mold issues. All affordable housing for family, older undergraduate, and graduate students at SFU were likely to be eliminated if/when the entire housing block is condemned. A number of issues have arisen in other sections of Residence as well. The mold was affecting more students than just graduate students living in Louis Riel.

Board has a liaison to RHA, and the Vice President University Relations has communicated that they would be willing to carry out action items. It was expressed that the SFSS has other avenues than Advocacy Committee to carry out a campaign.

Solutions to the matter were sought. The University has been attempting to remove students from the housing, however there has been resistance to moving out due to lack of alternatives for affordable housing on campus. The asks of the university were identified as follows:

- Public distribution of air quality and mold testing results immediately
- Commitment to the development of affordable housing on campus to replace the condemned buildings.

The matter was deemed extremely time sensitive, as there was concern that actions could be conducted by the university during the month of December when there was minimal student activity on campus.

Councilor Yang offered to coordinate committee actions on the matter should the other members of Advocacy Committee be willing to participate.

**8. Attachments**

**9. Adjournment**

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DC | CUPE 3338



# SIMON FRASER PUBLIC INTEREST RESEARCH GROUP

~ engaging students in social and environmental justice since 1981 ~

October 21, 2014

## OPEN LETTER ON THE PROPOSED KINDER MORGAN TRANS MOUNTAIN PIPELINE EXPANSION

We, the Board and Staff at the Simon Fraser Public Interest Research Group (SFPIRG), are writing this open letter to express our opposition to the Kinder Morgan Trans Mountain Pipeline expansion project.

### ABOUT THE PROPOSED PROJECT:

Like the proposed Enbridge Northern Gateway project, [Kinder Morgan's Trans Mountain Expansion Project](#) is part of a larger tar sands expansion strategy which aims to bring tar sands oils from Alberta to the BC coast to export to foreign markets. Kinder Morgan is seeking to build a twin pipeline alongside its existing 1,150-kilometre Trans Mountain pipeline system between Edmonton, Alberta and Burnaby, BC. Their goal is to transport 890,000 barrels per day of diluted bitumen through this pipeline. Although their project has not yet been approved by the National Energy Board, they have already begun illegally cutting down trees in the protected conservation forest area of Burnaby Mountain in preparation for conducting pipeline test drilling work.

Just a bit of background on Kinder Morgan: They are the biggest pipeline company in the United States. [Richard Kinder is an ex-Enron Executive](#). According to a report put out by CRED (Conversations on Responsible Economic Development): "*The National Response Center, the sole federal point of contact for reporting oil and chemical spills in the U.S. and its territorial waters, has found Kinder Morgan responsible for more than 1,800 violations since it was incorporated in 1997, nearly 500 of which are pipeline incidents.*" ([Source](#))

### WHY WE OPPOSE IT:

Our reasons to stand against this project are many. As an organization, we are committed to [decolonization and Indigenous sovereignty](#). Given Canada's long history of settler colonialism and the ongoing violation of Indigenous people's sovereignty as well as theft of Indigenous land, we feel that is morally incumbent on us to stand with Indigenous nations in upholding their traditional laws and land title.

We are concerned about the complete lack of respect displayed by Kinder Morgan for the will, laws and rights of the Indigenous Nations whose overlapping traditional territories include Burnaby Mountain. Most of BC is unceded Indigenous territory, which means this land was never ceded, surrendered or handed over in any way by Indigenous Nations. As we understand it, Burnaby Mountain is included in the overlapping territories of four Nations: the [Tsleil Waututh](#), [Stó:lō](#), [Skwxú7mesh](#) and [Musqueam](#) peoples. Therefore, the laws of these nations apply and must be upheld. One very relevant statement of these laws is the [International Treaty to Protect the Salish Sea](#), a historic treaty signed September 21, 2014 by many Indigenous Nations from the Lower Mainland, Vancouver Island, and Washington State - all of whom have pledged to protect the Salish Sea from tar sands oil and related threats. This treaty makes the Kinder Morgan Trans Mountain Expansion Project illegal under Coast Salish Law.

We are also concerned about the laws, rights and wellbeing of those Indigenous peoples whose territories include the Alberta tar sands. Kinder Morgan intends to use the proposed expanded pipeline to transport

bitumen from the tar sands. The mining of the tar sands is unbelievably destructive and is taking place on the traditional territories of several Indigenous Nations. We honour and respect another statement of Indigenous law, the [International Treaty to Protect the Sacred From Tar Sands Projects](#). This treaty commits the signatories, including signatories from Indigenous nations impacted by the Alberta tar sands, to defending their own and one another's territories and sacred sites from tar sands infrastructure.

SFPIRG is also committed to climate justice, conservation of the environment and protection of what few wild spaces we have left. We know that the global ecosystem cannot tolerate the expansion of the fossil fuel industry, and we know that around the world it is the most marginalized people who suffer first and most from climate change.

Kinder Morgan's Trans Mountain Pipeline expansion is intended to carry diluted bitumen - an oil based substance that is being mined in the Athabasca tar sands. It is also known as "asphalt cement" or "asphalt." It is too thick to be transported by pipeline, so they have to dilute it - generally with natural gas condensate, naphtha or synthetic crude. All these substances contain benzene, a known carcinogen. Companies claim that bitumen is just another grade of crude oil. However, it is more corrosive than crude oil and more toxic, particularly because of the diluents. It has to be sent through the pipeline at a higher temperature and at high pressure in order to get through. The effect is very corrosive on the pipelines and this is why tar sands spills are more common than crude oil spills. ([Source](#))

Moreover, while crude oil is devastating to the ecosystem when spilled, diluted bitumen is even worse because it is more difficult to clean up and its harmful impact is more expansive. As officials discovered after the 2010 Enbridge pipeline spill in Kalamazoo, cleaning up diluted bitumen comes with a brand new set of challenges. When spilled in waterways, the heavy bitumen sinks to the bottom, so conventional clean-up techniques had little effect. At the same time, the chemical diluents such as benzene evaporate and cause toxic clouds in the air. ([Source](#))

For all these reasons and more, Kinder Morgan's project is simply not in the public interest. We invite the SFU community to join us in resisting the expansion of the Kinder Morgan Trans Mountain Pipeline, and indeed, all extractive industry projects.

We ask that Simon Fraser University act now to protect students and workers at the University, and the Mountain itself, from this project and the risks inherent in it. More broadly, we support the call from the [Divest SFU movement](#), a coalition of students and alumni supporting the larger Fossil Free movement that calls on Simon Fraser University to immediately freeze any new investment in fossil-fuel companies, and to divest within five years from direct ownership and from any funds that include fossil-fuel public equities and corporate bonds.

Finally, we pledge our support to the Indigenous Nations who continue to work to protect this land, and specifically we pledge to support the [Sacred Trust Initiative](#), which is an initiative of the Tsleil-Waututh Nation, and which is mandated to oppose and stop the Kinder Morgan Trans Mountain pipeline project. Please contact us at your convenience if you would like to discuss this further and join the effort to stop Kinder Morgan's pipeline expansion, and export pipelines in general.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely

Board & Staff of SFPIRG

[info@sfpirg.ca](mailto:info@sfpirg.ca)



# SIMON FRASER PUBLIC INTEREST RESEARCH GROUP

*~ engaging students in social and environmental justice since 1981 ~*

## **SFU says NO TO THE PIPELINES** **Invitation to Participate in a Peaceful Rally**

**Thursday November 13, 11am to 4pm**

**Convocation Mall, SFU Burnaby, Unceded Coast Salish Territories**

You are invited to participate in a full day rally at Simon Fraser University to protest Kinder Morgan's proposed Trans Mountain Expansion Project. Join us to say NO to the expansion of tar sands oil pipelines. Our purposes in organizing this rally are:

- To stand in solidarity with Indigenous nations who have not consented to allow a pipeline on their land
- To take action to stop climate change and to help protect Burnaby Mountain.
- To raise awareness among the SFU community about the issues and what's at stake
- To energize and mobilize people to take action to Stop the Pipeline!

### **There are many ways to participate!**

#### **You or your organization/department can:**

- Endorse the event
- Give a 5-10 minute speech or performance at the event
- Book a table to share relevant resources & information (by donation)
- Help donate to the cost of putting on the rally
- Help by providing refreshments to speakers & volunteers on the day
- Support with advertising this rally and getting the word out
- Media support
- Volunteer on the day
- Attend the rally and bring your friends!
- Contribute in other creative ways that you can think of

To get involved, please email [communications@sfpirg.ca](mailto:communications@sfpirg.ca) and let us know how you would like to support this event. To find out more about SFPIRG and our stance on pipeline expansion, please click [here](#).

Many thanks!

The Board & Staff of SFPIRG



## **I AM A STUDENT**

### **"OUR NEEDS"**

#### **INTERNATIONAL STUDENT'S CAMPAIGN (Fairness in Tuition and Housing Prices)**

In light of our first Townhall and given the communities interest in wanting to communicate their decision and inquiries from the university to the student body, there is an apatite towards developing the final event towards the direction of Tuition Increases and services available for international students.

Through recommendations from members of the community, students have expressed interest in echoing the branding put into UBC's campaign to address the momentum going into the next phase of our initiative.

Our goal is to spread awareness for this next event, communicate the requests within the letter addressed to the Administration and invite them to a platform where they're able to provide both and answer and dialogue with the community.

Proposed date:

**Date: Friday November 21**

**Location: Lecture Rooms|Halpern Center|SFU Theatre**

**Time: 6:00PM - 8:00PM**

## **SMART OBJECTIVES**

### **Name: Newsletter Development**

#### **1. SPECIFIC:**

a) We would like to make the local students join hands in solidarity with the international community who would like to share their stories on being an international student. We would also like to create solidarity within the local community and invite the university to provide answers to the requested needs from this community.

#### **2. MEASURABLE**

b. We will measure the event through the number of people attending the event on social media, responses from students as well as the number of groups interested. Volunteer lists will also be measured. During the day of the event, we will be able to gauge how many students attend the event as well. Given a letter has already been drafted to the university, this will add pressure on administration towards attending the event and providing answers to the community.

#### **3. ATTAINABLE**

a. Given the growing number of interest within the International community in seeing documented response from the University and an understanding of tangible actionables, mobilizing them will not be an issue. The turnout during the summer town hall was already more than the number who attended during the previous term. The International Alliance as also saw more club participation. With the increase and momentum that the UBC campaign is receiving, joining the campaign allows it to slowly gain more momentum.

#### **4. RESULTS**

- Equity on Education delivery within the community.
- Mobilize local and International students to advocate for an important cause
- Share stories from international students
- Request decision from SFU administration
- Amplify issue to an international audience about international students in general.

## **5. TIME BOUND**

The goal is to get this done within this semester, momentum with the community is building.

2) Location, print material, and necessary setup for the event need to be organized. Given the committee wants to extend the time of the event, that is something it can discuss and propose.

Items	Expenses	Income
Location	\$450	
Food	\$200	
Marketing and Campaign	\$300	
Miscellaneous(AV)	\$200	
Sponsorship		In kind
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1250</b>	